

Annual Board Seminar March 2, 2022 Civic Center, Morehead City

The Honorable Carteret County Board of Commissioners held their annual Board Seminar on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Civic Center in Morehead City. Chairman Ed Wheatly, Commissioners Mark Mansfield, Robin Comer, Chris Chadwick, Bob Cavanaugh, Jimmy Farrington, and Chuck Shinn were in attendance.

The agenda was as follows:

CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2022 Board Seminar Wednesday, March 2, 2022 Civic Center, Morehead City

9:00 a.m.	Update: Carteret County Public School System	Dr. Rob Jackson
9:30 a.m.	Update: Carteret Community College	Dr. Tracy Mancini
10:00 a.m.	Update: Emergency Services Radio System	Stephen Rea
10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:45 a.m.	Health Department/DSS Presentation	Cindy Holman & Nina Oliver & Jessica Adams
11:30 a.m.	Aging Services: Expanding Services throughout the County	Lakisha Williams
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Peer Recovery: Discussion on the Jail Diversion Program	Pastor Gene Mclendon & Sheriff Asa Buck
1:30 p.m.	Financial Presentation	Dee Meshaw
2:00 p.m.	Update: Capital Projects & Facilities	Gene Foxworth
2:30 p.m.	Manager's Report	Tommy Burns

Carteret County School System Update with Dr. Rob Jackson

Dr. Jackson began by thanking the Board and the County Manager for the opportunity to be here this morning. I recognize, and the Board of Education recognizes, that the taxpayers of Carteret County make a significant investment in Carteret County Public Schools, and a significant investment in our children. Having our Commissioners take a deep and abiding interest in our school system, and the performance of our school system is something that I very much appreciate. Today is Read Across America Day, so we have Board of Education members in classrooms reading to students, and I appreciate them being there but I also appreciate the Board Members who are with us. We are very proud to have the opportunity to recognize the Board of County Commissioners at the state level. Your investment in our school system, I truly believe it is a partnership, and the success in our school system is based on the support that we receive from our County Commissioners and from the citizens. So, last year I shared a similar statistic. I shared it from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, this year I wanted to share it from something that you know very well, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners that recognizes that Carteret County ranks in the top 10% in current expense funding from local Board of Commissioners within our state. I pulled this from the 2021 County Map Book, NCACC which illustrates that Carteret County provides the 11th highest contribution out of 115 school systems in the state for local current expense, and we very much appreciate that. What makes that absolutely astounding and outstanding is this, Carteret County also has the lowest property tax rate in the state. This demonstrates very visibly the commitment that our County Commissioners are placing with the school system. Having received that investment, our charge is to be excellent stewards of the taxpayer's money. So, I am delighted to share with you the return on investment the county receives from investing in the Carteret County Public School System.

Today, I want to concentrate on academics. I could concentrate on the arts. I could share with you that we have had student artists this year who received local, regional, state, and national recognition for their artistic talents. We could talk about athletics. I could share with you that we have had individuals and teams this school year who won state championships. I could share with you that the roof just about came off West Carteret's High School gym last night as Coach Mansfield and his team won the Elite Eight game and will be going on Saturday to play in the Final Four, and we certainly look forward to cheering on our Patriots throughout. Artistically and athletically our school system is excelling. We are very proud.

We received two measures from the state, one is proficiency and one is growth. Growth is the one that I most pay attention to, because it takes every student, individually, where they start academically. If they are a low struggling/striving student or if they are a high/excelling student academically and it looks at where they are a year later. If they received a year of instruction, they should have met growth. What was expected statistically. So, each of our schools and each of our teachers receive a growth metric. In the 2020-2021 school year, and during a pandemic, every single school in Carteret County met or exceeded academic growth. That is absolutely outstanding. In our school system, every single school, was named to the US News & World Report "Best School" list. That is amazing. Buy a house anywhere in Carteret County, and your kids are going to be served by an amazing school because every single school is achieving at the highest level. Every single school earned a second-consecutive Purple Star Award. The Purple Star Award was started by the Department of Public Instruction to recognize those schools that are doing all they can to support military connected families. Recognizing that the children whose parents serve or work on base have a unique set of circumstances, and schools that receive this award are schools that understand that and work with the families to make sure we are supporting our military. Only eleven

districts in the entire state has a school that has earned the Purple Star. The consistent theme is Every.Single. One. Every single one of our students matter. Every single one of our students are worthy of our very best efforts. We still have much to do, and we will continue to do that work.

In terms of budget impacts, I just want to share with you those things that we are working through and trying to get a better understanding of. As you know with school system budgets, often we have to move forward without a state budget; without knowing exactly what we are going to have, and that it sometimes doesn't arrive at all during a school year. Sometimes it arrives as late as November. The following items that will impact our budgets. The biggest impact on our budget will be the state mandated employee salary increases to a minimum of \$15/hour or a 2.5% increase. There was actually a requirement for the school system to increase our employee wages to \$13/hour this current school year. When that came out, we did not return to the Commissioner for additional funding, even though that was not a part of our budget last year. We simply used fund balance to be able to make up the balance as we went through the current year. We have dealt with it just as the county has persistent vacancies due to more competitive salaries. One principal shared that he offered a position five times to five individuals because of the salary the offer was declined. So, it is something that we have to address to make sure we have the high-quality individuals that it takes to have a high-quality school system. We looked at our salary charts and what we need to do there. We have to have a minimum of \$15. Pay grade 55 is the lowest for us, so we have set that 55 with zero years of experience at \$15 and then increased each year a 1% gain. That is to ensure that we are recognizing the loyalty and experience of our folks that have been with us for years.

Commissioner Comer stated, I am trying to understand this salary chart. I thought all of your salaries were pretty much based or set by the state. Dr. Jackson responded, yes sir. So, within a pay grade the state sets a minimum and a maximum. So, the state will say pay grade 55, the minimum will be \$15/hour. The maximum will be "fill in a number" (we haven't received those numbers yet.) So, again we are trying to work through what we think it will be, but they do not set what each pay grade is, they simply set the min and max for paygrade 55. So, one of the things we run into is that we may have, for example a bus driver, who is a pay grade 55, and a nearby school system also has their bus drivers as a pay grade 55. Although, they are both 55's, the bus driver with the same years of experience may receive more pay at another school system because they are higher than the state minimum and we are at the state minimum. So, the state simply says here is your starting pointing and your end point, where you sit in between is up to you.

Commissioner Comer asked is this for teachers and everybody? Dr. Jackson replied, for the salary charts here we are really talking about our classified staff or our hourly staff. So, teacher assistants, bus drivers, secretaries, maintenance, etc. Commissioner Comer said so this is not talking about teachers, you are talking about supplemental staff beyond teachers. Dr. Jackson said correct. Commissioner Comer stated, I have been dealing with schools a long time and I always thought that X's throughout public schools was an X, there was no X, Y, and Z. I have never seen a pay study come through the school system. Dr. Jackson said I truly wish that a level 4 on a paygrade 56 was X dollars because it does level the playing field. With the way it is done though, we do wind up where one school system may be paying more. It creates an imbalance, which really puts the burden on the local community to fund the current expense. As you know, Commissioners have had to fund more and more current expense because the way the state works. Commissioner Comer said, well in the pay grade 55 that starts at \$15 and goes through a number, you set that but are these state dollars you are setting that number on? Dr. Jackson answered, yes and no. We have some employees who are paid with state dollars, we have some employees who are paid with federal dollars, and employees who are paid with local dollars. So, the state sets the minimum rate for our state paid employees. We anticipate we will receive the funding for our state paid employees to meet the

new minimums. Now, one of the things we don't know yet, is exactly what our allotment is going to be. Because if the state uses an average for the allotment and more school systems than not are above the state minimum then they may not send as much money. We have been closer to the state minimum, so we may have to do some making up of those funds. We have broken down by state, local, and federal in terms of where the money is coming from for the increase that is mandated by the state. One of the things that we talked about is that the federal government probably doesn't care that North Carolina has raised its minimum rate to \$15. Commissioner Comer stated, I'm still not tracking this because there is not a variable number from the state. You can't tell the state that I have an employee here in paygrade 55 and we are going to pay them \$17/hour. It don't work that way? I am trying to figure out where these raises are coming from. It appears that you are telling us that you are looking at a pay schedule and I know the state pays the majority of your people, so it tells me you should be able to adjust salaries up and down so you need to send us more money or send us less money. We give a supplement on top of what the state pays. I'm getting lost...who pays salary increases for all the state paid employees? Dr. Jackson said the state does that. So, the state sends us a pot of money and says for your pay grade 55 employees here is the minimum you are going to pay and here is the maximum you could pay. You figure it out. Commissioner Comer said but you are saying you are behind, you are not hiring people because of salaries right now. Is it as easy as telling the state that we aren't competitive and we need to pay more? Dr. Jackson responded well, with 115 school systems, I don't know that they listen to us individually the way we might like them to. So, they are looking as much as they can and be fair across the board so they said this is what the min will be \$15/hour. I think that is the response from the state hearing from school systems across the state that we are not competitive. So, the salaries are increasing from what they have been to a minimum of \$15/hour and then for the school system itself, recognizing that and understanding that if we have an employee who has been in our school system for some amount of time and they have worked their way up and maybe they are at \$15.36/hour and someone who has just got here they are at \$12.50 they are going to a pay raise up to \$15 but you don't do anything for the person who has been here for a long time and they are up to \$15.36 then you have issues. Commissioner Comer said its compression. Dr. Jackson said that is exactly right.

Chairman Wheatly asked, you said that the state sets the rate. Does that apply to the county paid employees and the federally paid employees also? Dr. Jackson said yes sir. What we are looking at right now is locally paid employees. If we are short on state or federally paid employees then we may need to come back and have a further conversation, but we are just talking about our locally paid employees now.

Dr. Jackson continued by showing a slide that referenced a teacher assistant salary pay grade 56 and how that grade will increase from \$13.05 to \$15.45 (minimum) with a 1% increase yearly.

Commissioner Farrington asked, when we give a supplement how is that factored in? Dr. Jackson said the supplement is on top of the base pay.

Chairman Wheatly asked if a county like Craven pays more then we do? Dr. Jackson said yes, sir. As one of the highest performing school systems in the state, I would like to be one of the highest paid school systems in the state, but we also want to be excellent stewards of the taxpayer's resources. I am not the type to ask for a Lexus when we can get down the road in a Fiesta, but we are going to ensure that our children receive a world-class education. Part of receiving a world class education is having salaries to be able to bring in the highest quality employees and recognizes their expertise.

Commissioner Cavanaugh asked, is the base pay for our teachers below the base pay in the region? Dr. Jackson replied yes, sir. Based on the salary study, we have work to do there. One of the things that I want to make sure that I am really careful of is that my message this morning is not that we are discontent or in any way upset with what the county has done. The county has been very gracious to our school system and taking care of our folks. Commissioner Cavanaugh asked are we losing teachers because of pay? Dr. Jackson replied we have lost some teachers and professional staff to other school systems. Historically, before the pandemic, Carteret County did not have to recruit staff members. Carteret County recruited staff members. That has not been the case the last two years. This school year, I sent a vacancy report to our Board of Education every week. We started the year with about 20 vacancies and currently we have 38 vacancies. It is persistent vacancies where we are not able to hire staff. In some cases we just don't have applicants. In terms of teachers there are about 5-7 vacancies. We have really ramped up our recruiting efforts. It is a tough time to be a teacher quite frankly. So, one of the things we are quite proud of is the Big Rock Tournament stepping up to be the named sponsor for the Big Rock Teaching Fellow Scholarship. This helps us locally grow our teachers. A senior from each of our schools will receive 4-year scholarships. The first two years will be at Carteret Community College. Then they come back and teach at least 4 years in our school system.

Commissioner Cavanaugh asked how much they were spending on this heightened recruitment effort? The response was given, in effort not funds. He stated they were going to a lot of colleges and universities, job fairs, etc. Commissioner Cavanaugh stated what he was trying to get at is how do you account for the system wide academic achievements over the past few years? Dr. Jackson responded I would say we have an amazing faculty. We have very experienced faculty. One of the things that I was pleasantly surprised by when I arrived in Carteret County two years ago was the experience of the staff. We have very few brand-new teachers because so many experienced staff members want to be a part of an excellent school system. Carteret County is widely known throughout our state as one of the highest performing school systems in the state, and it is a beautiful place to live. But when these staff members retire, we have to replace them and that is how we end up with vacancies.

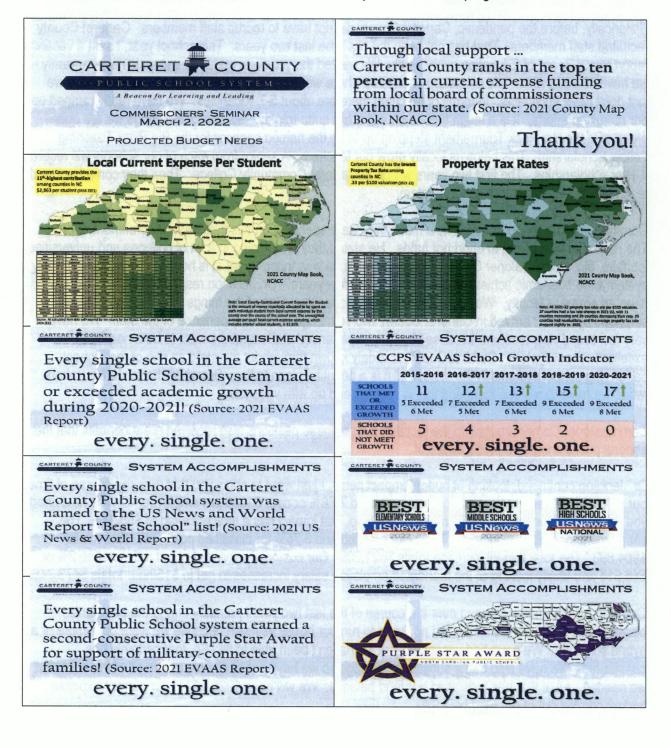
Commissioner Comer brought up the fact that a lot of these positions also received great benefits that the general public should be made aware of.

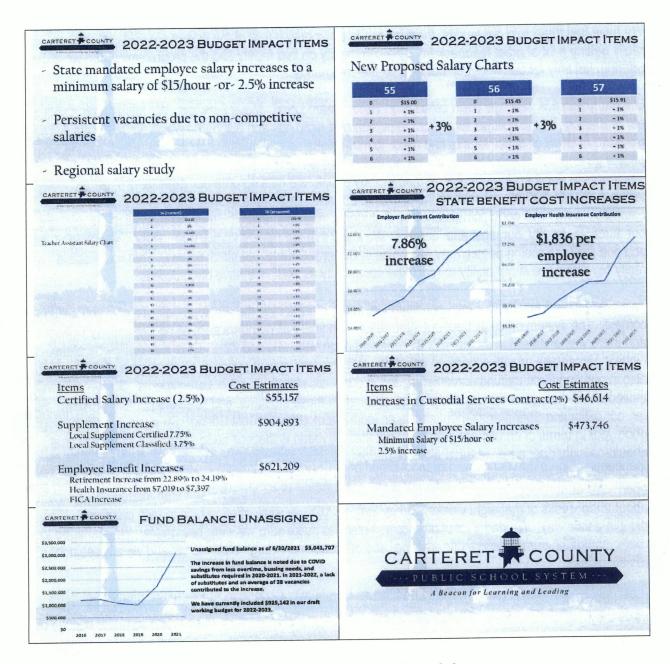
Dr. Jackson continued, looking at budget impact items, I just want to show you that over the course of time our employer retirement contribution has increased 7.86% or over \$1800 per employee. On the next chart you will see the certified salary increase of 2.5% so, that impact has a total price tag of \$55,157. The supplement increase will increase 7.75% for certified and 3.75% for classified positions. That totals \$904,893. The total benefit increase totals \$621,209. Our custodial service contract will increase 2% or \$46,614 and finally looking at the mandated employee salary increases to get to \$15/hour totals \$473,746.

Our fund balance has increased over the course of the last two years primarily due to the pandemic because due to the pandemic we did not have to run our buses as much because we were on remote or a hybrid schedule. We have had vacancies that we haven't been able to fill. So, that certainly has contributed. We have also had a substitute shortage so we have not been able to hire all of the subs that we needed. All of that has increased our fund balance. We will have \$925,142 in our current expense budget coming out of our fund balance.

I will be happy to sit down with anyone and look at direct numbers.

Chairman Wheatly asked what the total increase amount is, I have heard \$2.6M is that accurate? Dr. Jackson replied the \$2.6M is the state, federal, and local dollars. Commissioner Farrington and Commissioner Chadwick both asked what is the county's portion of the \$2.6M? Dr. Jackson replied right at \$2M, but we are still sharpening our pencil and working through our budget. We still haven't received our state allotments nor our federal allotments. So it is still very much a work in progress.





Carteret Community College Update with Dr. Tracy Mancini

Dr. Mancini thanked the Board, County Manager, and County staff for the opportunity to come and talk with you today. I also want to thank you for your continued support, not only financially but also in being an advocate for Carteret Community College in our community. We really appreciate all of the good things that you say about us and the way that you are involved with the college. We are excited to tell you a little bit about the college today and the ways in which we are helping to support the economic vitality of Carteret County by producing skilled and qualified workers for this economy, and also helping improve the quality of life for all residents of Carteret County. So, I am excited to share with you some of what has happened in the last year. I will start with this picture of the first Escoffier Dinner. This is a dinner series that the culinary program puts on every year to raise funds to send students to France, which is a unique aspect of our culinary program. That was our first dinner in the Culinary Arts Center which opened one year ago.

We have had three sold out events, the third one is this month but all of the tickets are sold out. We are really getting a lot of great feedback from the community on that facility and the programming that we are offering, not only for our students, but also for the community.

Our campaign this year has been called Start Here. Learn Local. Move Forward. We have made a shift in our marketing for the college away from television and radio ads and billboards which are really difficult to measure in terms of effectiveness and reach to more digital, social media, over the top (which means when people go to watch a video online, it's the ad that comes on before that), and we are able to measure how many people are watching our ads, and how many people are clicking onto our website. So, we are really taking a deeper dive into measuring the impact of our ads. One of the most exciting things about our ad campaign is we have gone completely to real students, real labs, everything you see on all of our ads, are our students, faculty, our labs, and facilities. We know that our market knows that. They are looking at the ads and they are seeing people they recognize in Carteret County, not stock figures. That has made a really big difference in our ability to reach the community as well. We have had success.

This past Fall, we have had a total enrollment increase of 22% over the previous Fall. To give you a little context. The system office just put out information with final Fall numbers from all 58 Community Colleges, and there was a statewide increase of 2% enrollment growth. We had 22%. Ours was really one of the highest percentage growth schools in the state. We grew not only in our curriculum, degree programs but also in our workforce training enrollments, and in our basic skills/high school enrollments. So, we are really thrilled about that. Now the work begins for us to retain those students, and keep the number growing. So far, our estimated Spring enrollment shows an increase of 18% over last Spring. So again, we are having a good year in terms of enrollment growth. What that will mean is that our budget from the state next year should be higher because we have a higher budget full-time equivalency rate. We did all of that during a pandemic. One of the things we are most proud of at Carteret Community College is that we have stayed open. We went remote in March 2020 for about eight weeks, but our faculty and staff started returning after about three weeks of that eight weeks, and by May 1, 2020 we were offering face to face programs. We did it in a safe way. We had a lot of protocols in place to make sure we were being safe. We managed to really strengthen our recruiting, our advising, and our teaching through a pandemic and we are seeing the results of that.

Last July we got word that we were named the #3 Community College in America by Smart Asset. The basis they use is the student-faculty ratio, and ours is very favorable. As well as retention rates, and we do have a very strong retention rate of students, and then cost of attendance. The North Carolina Community College System as done a great job of keeping the cost of attendance fairly affordable, and we at Carteret Community College are always really cognizant of fees as well so that we are keeping the cost of attendance low. In addition, this year we were renamed a military friendly school. We just got word for the coming year, we are going to be a Gold School, in terms of being military friendly. That means that we are serving our veterans and their families well. In fact in a couple of weeks, we are opening up early registration for our veterans. So, they can begin a few days before everyone else so they can get the schedules and classes they want. We also opened the Military Business Center; it's housed at the Big Rock Career Center. We are one of twelve facilities in the state to have this, which helps people in the community get government contracts. This is helping to increase access to government contracts for businesses in our area. We have gotten three USDA grants over the past 1.5 years, those total approximately \$2M. The first one was a \$980,000 grant to help us put technology in partner sites around the county that would allow us to reach people who can't get to campus. So, we have put technology at the Bridge Down East, East Carteret High School, Fort Benjamin, Western Carteret Library, the Department of

Social Services, and we are going to be putting this technology at the Beaufort Housing Authority Community Center, Atlantic Elementary School, and Hope Mission/Peer Recovery Network so that people can take classes remotely from these partner sites as well as use the equipment there to take online classes. We are really proud of that. We received a second round of that which totaled around \$500K, and we also got a \$480K USDA grant to put aquaculture classrooms in Croatan High School and East Carteret High School. So, we are offering this program on site at those schools. We have seen a lot of great interest from the students and the principals at those schools.

One of the big successes this past year has been our program alignment. We are really trying to respond to local business and industry needs. One way as been through our Commercial Drivers License Program. As you may recall, we started that program by renting the tractor-trailer trucks from Craven Community College, so we could only offer the program in the evenings because we didn't have the trucks around the clock. We have received a donation of a truck and we purchased another this year. We have been able to increase the number of students who can enroll by offering three times as many classes a year. So, in 2020 we had 23 graduates from our CDL Program. In 2021 we had 43 graduates and this year we expect to have 63 grads. Now we can offer day, night, and weekend drivers' classes. The best part is our students are getting great paying jobs. It's an eight-week program, when they leave they get jobs making \$60K to \$80K a year. This past December, we had one student who on the very day he was taking his exam, he was going to accept a job making over \$60K. We are seeing great success stories, and we are really excited to be able to contribute to the supply chain demand for truck drivers here. Chairman Wheatly asked how many instructors they have for this program. The answer was five part-time instructors. Chairman Wheatly said he thought this was an excellent program.

In addition in 2018, we started a number of new technical programs, such as automotive system technology, welding, diesel and heavy equipment, horticulture, and all of these are maturing. We are also out growing our lab space for these programs. You have read in the paper today that that is one of our biggest needs going forward, is a transportation technology center to be able to grow these programs. Our students are leaving and getting jobs. In fact, a lot of them are getting great jobs while they are in school. Our Health Science area has really grown. We are meeting the critical needs of our community for applied health sciences. This is nursing, radiography technicians, respiratory therapists, and we have 100% employment for all of those programs upon graduation.

Last year when I came to talk with you, I mentioned that we were going to be placing a priority on our public safety programs this year. I mentioned that we had three prongs of that plan. We wanted to purchase more equipment, we wanted to improve the facilities, and we wanted to take a look at the adjunct pay scales because we have been hearing from the agencies in the county that there was discrepancy among the pay rates for some of the instructors in basic law enforcement training, fire academy, and EMS. I am really happy to say we were able to accomplish a lot in the past year. With the help of the county, we have improved the existing firing range. We have cleared the berm of all of the brush and debris, we brought in 61 loads of dirt to help fill in some divots in the berm that were unsafe. It was all graded and sodded. It really improves the drainage issues, so it is much improved. We are really glad to be planning an adjacent range that will have a longer range to be able to have an automated target system. This will allow for more certification training. We have improvements for our basic law enforcement training classroom building underway, and that includes adding bathrooms with showers. We were really limited in our training abilities because we did not have showers for both males and females. We also received an allocation from the state in the infrastructure fund for \$900K to purchase a fire training tower that will really benefit the Crystal Coast Fire Academy and also the agencies in all of the fire departments in our county for use in shipwreck

firefighting. We are in the process right now of identifying the best location for that. We have also revised our pay scales for adjunct instructors. We have created a new scale to make sure everyone is getting paid at the same higher level, and we think that will allow us to hire really qualified local instructors. We did accomplish a lot in terms of public safety.

We also heard the call of our trustees to bring back the trades. We had 107 students complete trades classes in 2021. We see that number already really strong for 2022, we expect it to grow. A lot of those were in the carpentry academy, electrical, HVAC, and welding.

A lot of our success has been through key partnerships with the school system and hospital system. We have also done well with our partnership with the NC Ferry Division. We just got a letter from the Deputy Director of the Ferry Division, Jed Dixson, saying that he is so pleased with the college's efforts to help them hire. As you may recall last year, the Ferry Division was having a really hard time hiring employees. We have done two job fairs for them now. We have started offering the able seaman class and life boat classes, which are the two classes that folks need if they are going to go work for the Ferry Division.

We have really organized the foundation events. We are offering a Sound Discoveries and Film Series, and we are seeing a lot of participation from the community. Whenever we can get community members on campus, we can tell them about the programs we offer. In addition we have had a lot of community members contribute to endowed scholarships. In the last three months we have brought in over \$60K in endowment for scholarships. That means we are able to help students come to school, help them with books, help them pursue these careers that will bring them good work.

We are going through the strategic plan, and we have a new mission statement. "Carteret Community College serves and empowers our students and coastal community by providing high-quality education, workforce training, and lifelong enrichment in an innovative and inclusive learning environment." We are in the process of coming up with our strategic goals for the coming year.

With regard to budget impacts and budget outlooks, I did want to show you our 2021-22 total budget allocation. We have about a \$27.8M total budget for the year, and \$13.86M of that is state funds and the General Assembly was very generous to the community college system. 90% of our state funding goes to full and part-time salary and benefits. The county accounts for about 14% of our total budget this year. That is \$3.97M, and then the remaining 36% is institutional funds and that is Pell funding, etc. We get those funds to distribute to students for grants and tuition and we use the funds to pay the state for tuition and it comes back to us as state funding.

Our county operating funds support our 21 buildings on campus, 263,000 sq ft, 42 acres, and it funds 26 full-time faculty and staff. That includes our custodians, landscapers, maintenance, security staff, and those who oversee all of the construction and improvements on campus. The county funds also cover our insurances, utilities, facility repairs, supplies, and maintenance. We raised the salary of our county funded employees by 2.5%. And we plan to increase it next year as well.

Our capital improvements that we have been able to complete this past year includes the Hospitality and Culinary Art Center, the Big Rock Career Center, and our living shoreline project. Currently in the works we have got Marquee, the new video and digital signage; our building and campus signage all over campus; Basic Law Enforcement, and exterior painting. Our living shore line earned us from the NC Coastal Federation a Pelican Award for leadership in living shorelines.

For capital requests for 2022-2023 consists of continued work on the new firing range, and creating a "one door" campus center in the McGee Building. This will be the one place for all students who are coming in to register for classes. We got some great advice from our Board Members to start thinking longer term then just presenting a year at a time. So, our CFO has been working on a five-year plan so that we can lay out all of the improvements/maintenance, etc. in the next five years so that you can see what's coming ahead for us and so that we can plan.

Commissioner Farrington asked about the Big Rock scholarships. Dr. Jackson responded that it is modeled after the Hospital Foundation Scholarship. It is a full four-year scholarship for books, tuition, and fees. So the total amount will vary depending on which university they attend in years three and four. In exchange, the student must teach in our school system for four years.





Health Department/DSS Presentation with Cindy Holman, Nina Oliver, and Jessica Adams

Ms. Holman stated she was glad to have one more opportunity to be before you. I wanted to take this opportunity to say I'm so proud of our community college. I also wanted to say the best thing I have done for you in the last five years is to hire these two new directors.

DSS

Jessica Adams, the DSS Director, stated it was a pleasure to be here. I have been in Carteret County since May 2021 and this is the best place I have worked in my career. Thank you for the opportunity. I just want to talk to you about a couple of challenges we are facing at DSS and things that may be different in our budget this year as compared to years past. A few months ago you heard from our Community Child Protection Team regarding some challenges that we have for placements for children who have mental health needs. That continues to be an issue that we are facing. Last week we met with Trillium Health Resources to talk about what we might be able to do with the Pruitt Sealevel building. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem like we are going to make any progress in that area with that facility to address these issues with our children. The state has continued to pursue addressing these conflict issues; children that really have no place to go. So, as an agency, we have to find ways to make sure they have a home. A place to lay their head. Sometimes that increases our county dollar in the places we have to put them. Lately we have been using respite places, but they are not licensed foster homes. Because it's not licensed through

the state division, then that means its 100% county liability, cost wise. Sometimes the placement can run up to \$5K a month. We have one juvenile who is particularly susceptible to being in this type of placement.

We are also preparing for changes and impacts from the Family First Prevention Services Act. That is federal legislation that the state has opted into. What the plan is, is for prevention services to be provided. So, federal dollars in NC will now go to the prevention services and there will be reduced federal funding on the foster care payment side. So, what that means for us is that any child who is in a residential treatment facility, congregate care setting, or foster home; after 14 days of placement if they move to a new placement we will not receive federal reimbursement for their board payment. That is the difference in us getting 75% back on their foster care board payment to about 50% back. That is a change for us. We have budgeted that. We have also budgeted increases for the foster care board rate payment, they have gone up for the first time since around 1999. They aren't significant increases, but overall facing these challenges we plan to increase our foster care budget by \$40K.

We also have a request in our budget for a new Medicaid worker. Our current Medicaid population in the county has increased 21% over 6.5 years and we have not added any positions. We have over 14,000 Medicaid beneficiaries in the county and because of the pandemic, we have not had as many terminations. The public health emergency created a situation where the state asked for waivers to the federal government and those have been allowed. So, our recipients have continued to receive Medicaid benefits regardless if they have been eligible or not. We haven't been able to terminate them in certain programs because of the public health emergency. Until that ends, we will continue to see the number go up. Normally what we have is an ebb and flow of people going off Medicaid and on Medicaid at their 6-month review of their case or their one-year review, but we have not had that ebb and flow, so our staff in Medicaid are really seeing the effects of that and a lot of pressure. We are also required to review cases even though we can make no terminations.

Additionally, NC Fast continues to be a problem system for us to have to work in. We have been in NC Fast since 2011, and there continue to be bugs and fixes that create more work for our staff instead of making things easier. They have also added some additional programs like the new Medicaid program for folks to be able to access Covid testing, and we also have to review cases that come over from the healthcare marketplace. So anyone who goes there to try to get health insurance, they are being sent to us to get a denial for Medicaid before they are able to be screened more appropriately for health insurance through the marketplace. This is an increased burden on our workers. In looking at how we can shift around some responsibilities, we determined that we would ask for a new Medicaid long-term care worker, and that person would work with special assistance clients and for CAP clients.

Our next ask is going to be for an Adult Services Program Manager. That is going to be a reclassification request. We currently have our former DSS Director, Mr. Clint Lewis, serving in a part-time position in this role. Our adult services population is really growing. This is a wonderful retirement community and we are working on targeting that age group and that does increase our workload. There is no management level position there, it is two supervisors and they have reported directly to the Director, because of the increased workload and the number of wards that we are responsible for, we have found that even having Clint part-time has really brought a lot of stability to those programs. If we were to be granted this reclass, that would eliminate the part-time position in our budget. What we are asking to reclass is a social worker position to the Program Manager. The number of wards we are responsible for has increased about 15.27%. We rank really high in the state for the number of adult wards we have per capita.

Chairman Wheatly asked how many total employees are you asking for? Ms. Adams responded I'm asking for one additional employee and one reclass.

Commissioner Chadwick asked Ms. Adams to tell the Board what was going on with the Sea Level building. Ms. Adams stated that Ms. Holman was asked by Commissioner Chadwick to address with Trillium a possibility of having a facility at the Pruitt building that would help us address some of the crisis that is going on in our foster care system. That is not just a Carteret County problem, it is statewide. What we learned from the meeting was that the facility is too large. It is over 100 beds, so they would only be able to license a facility for 16 beds, but because that building has the capacity for more it would be ruled out for licensure. Commissioner Farrington stated you can't split it up because it's for children. Ms. Holman responded we asked that and they could not license that building that size. It's one license per building.

Commissioner Farrington then asked Ms. Adams to explain more about the adult ward problem. Ms. Adams stated an adult ward is someone deemed incompetent by the court. So, we have been designated as their legal guardian. So, we have to plan for them...where they will live, how they will have their basic needs met. That population is starting to look a lot different then it used to. In the past, it was older people. Now, it looks like 18-year-olds who have nowhere to go. Who have been deemed incompetent. We have at least 3-4 18 and 19-year-olds right now who have nobody else in their lives to help them meet their needs. Those younger folks often have a lot of mental health needs. It is a huge strain on our adult services staff. We can't take our young wards to a nursing home to sleep. They don't fit the criteria to be in nursing homes.

Chairman Wheatly asked what do you do with a person who has no place to go? Ms. Adams responded we take them to hotels, or our office. Ms. Adams also stated that we currently have 84 kids in foster homes, and 70 adult wards.

Chairman Wheatly asked if Trillium are the only ones who can certify and allow the use of the Pruitt health building? Ms. Adams said they are not the only ones. Gene Foxworth stated that we are talking to several different organizations about that facility.

Health Dept.

Nina Oliver, the Health Director, has been with Carteret County for about a year, and agreed with Jessica that this has been the best place to work. How Carteret has structured their leadership, their administration, how involved Commissioners are, and how supportive Cindy Holman is, makes it an excellent place to work.

I'm here to talk about Covid. I see the room as cleared, I think people are sick of Covid. So, we are going to discuss state level metrics. This is state level data not Carteret County. The state looks at four key metrics. The first is hospitalizations. You can see from my charts that hospitalizations have decreased. It peaked on 1/26/2022 with 5,206 across the state hospitalized, and we have never seen that before. This has caused burnout for staff and errors that can occur. Our next metric is the number of cases reported daily. We had three major variants, Alpha, Delta, and Omicron. Our Alpha occurred over a year ago. Delta was last August, and Omicron that occurred starting in December 2021. The most cases reported in one day was 44,833 on 1/13/2022. Positive total tests have dropped to about 6.9%. Hospital data is the last metric. This is the percentage of emergency department visits for Covid.

Commissioner Mansfield asked for clarification on the hospital data. Ms. Oliver responded this is data taken from hospital and is statewide data. This is visits for Covid related symptoms.

Ms. Oliver continued with Carteret County data. Early in 2020, our Communicable Disease Nurse was working 12-14 hours a day to respond to the cases and this was on top of all the other STD's and communicable disease that she has to work. After a couple of weeks, our back-up CD nurse had to assist her because she was overwhelmed. Before vaccine was available, our NP's and RN's provided curbside testing. This caused us to cut back severely on clinic time. All clinic staff in the department had to respond to phone calls, calling patients with Covid results, testing, vaccinating, and documenting vaccines into the statewide system, and many other tasks all while responding to other clinical issues which had suffered during this response. All clinic nurses had to be trained to enter data in to the NC Covid state database.

During the vaccine rollout in January 2021, all clinical staff as well as other staff from the Health Department, DSS, the County Manager's Office, worked the mass clinics. Within this last year, the Carteret County Health Department has provided close to 15,000 doses of vaccine. We have requested and received two Community Health Workers from Vidant, and two temporary medical assistants to assist with testing demands. We used multiple volunteers from the community to assist us. We requested and received state surge staff to assist with massive amounts of contact tracing, answering phones, scheduling vaccines, and Covid testing. In October 2021, with funding provided by the state, we were able to hire a temporary full-time RN to work with the school system for Covid related activities. We are currently collaborating with the school system to hire a mental health specialist who will focus on children and their parents who were impacted by Covid.

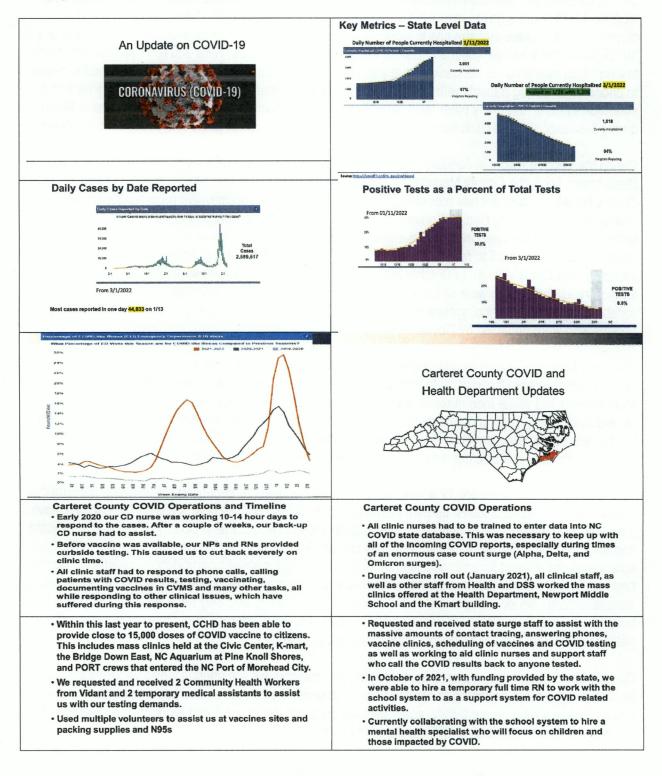
We started seeing Omicron in mid-December 2021 in Carteret County. We tend to lag in getting our cases here. Which is great. It allows us to start putting ourselves into response mode. Cases tend to occur in Mecklenburg and Wake then make its way over to the coast. It was very infectious but tends to be less severe than Delta. Testing demands and positivity rates jumped to unprecedented levels. I have never in my 19-year career seen anything like it. Positivity rate peaked around 2/2/22. It continues to go down. Testing demands have also decreased since the peak of early January 2022.

As of March 1, 2022, there are 12 active cases. 14,054 cleared, 114 deceased, 14,180 total confirmed cases, 5 Covid hospitalizations, percent positive is 8.5% of testing. The goal is 5% and below. We have partnered with the hospital to bring a long-term testing resource to Carteret County. They had significant demands on their emergency department, they couldn't keep up with it. You should be going to the emergency department for emergencies not for Covid testing for athletic participation, travel, etc. So, because of that the hospital approached us and asked if we could collaborate to bringing long-term testing resources here. So we brought in a company called Nomi Health, and they have set up right outside the hospital they test from 10AM-10PM every day at no cost to us. Carteret County has done a great job getting vaccinated. We are in the top 15 counties in the state.

Current Covid operations, we have a weekly planning meeting, we are offering Covid vaccines through the general clinic, we are preparing to provide vaccine to under 4 years old's once approved, offering Covid testing 5 days a week at our facility, again we partnered with the hospital and brought Nomi Health in for testing, and we are distributing N95 masks to the public.

Commissioner Mansfield said I think all of the Commissioners up here have been vaccinated, and I think we are all pro-choice for getting vaccinated. We had an emergency and I think we over acted our powers

upon with emergency acts and freedom comes at a cost. Sometimes you have to be careful not to let those freedoms erode away. My other comment would be that the School Board went mask optional back in September and the numbers in the county have not differed from other counties that have still been masking. I find it interesting that the data is not that much different vs wearing and non-wearing.



Percent Positive Rates Carteret and Omicron - Most recent surge Started seeing Omicron in Carteret mid-December Very infectious but tends to be less severe than Delta Omicron carries about 50 mutations including 30 mutations on the spike proteins that the coronavirus uses to attach to human cells. Testing demands and positivity rates jumped to unprecedented levels **CCHD Testing Requests** 1500 County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Percentage of Confirmed Cases (By Age) March 1 2022 Carteret COVID Numbers 12 Active · 14,054 Cleared 114 Deceased 14,180 Total confirmed cases 5 COVID-related hospitalizations (1 vaccinated/4 unvaccinated) Percent positive: 8.5% Much of the focus at CCHD over the last 2 years, especially during surges, As of March 1 2022: has been COVID response. Tasks included: Total amount of vaccines given by the CCHD: 14,806 - responding to phone calls from citizens, elected officials, community partners Total amount given to 12-17 year olds: 290 first doses given, 590 total - educating employers on current CDC guidance and requirements, working with long-term care facilities Total amount given to 5-11 year olds: 173 - working with child care centers and schools on cases Total number of additional doses/boosters given: 3,050 - responding to media and interview requests - learning and reviewing the multiple changes in state guidance - managing the internal COVID spreadsheet, managing stats, compilation of the daily and weekly numbers Carteret County Total Population Vaccination Status: managing supply and inventory of COVID vaccine, vaccine transfers, managing schedules for COVID clinics, testing staff, surge staff, entering data into NC COVID People Vaccinated with at Least One Dose: 48,029 People Vaccinated with Two Doses or One Dose J&J: 44,550 managing supply of PPE for staff, working with testing and other clinical staff to provide support, and various other tasks People Vaccinated with One Booster/Additional Dose: 20,466 Percent of Population Vaccinated with at Least One Dose: 69% Percent of Population Vaccinated with Two Doses or One Dose J&J: 64% - trying to get back to a "normal" clinic Current COVID Operations Weekly COVID Planning Meeting Offering COVID vaccines through general clinic Preparing to provide COVID vaccine to 6mths - 4 year olds Offering COVID testing 5 days a week Offering COVID testing on every Saturday in February from 10-Q&A Partnering with the hospital and Nomi Health to bring long term testing resources here to Carteret County Distribution of N95 masks to the public

Aging Services: Expanding Services Throughout the County presented by Lakisha Williams

Ms. Williams stated she is always excited when we are given the opportunity to share accomplishments and approaches being used to strengthening connections centered around older adults in Carteret County. My objective today is to explain why expanding aging services are important, what areas services would be expanded into, which programs and resources would be used, and to drive connections to expand services throughout Carteret County.

The "where" component breaks down as follows. In eastern Carteret County, the participation and attendance in Harkers Island has been one. Straits, Otway, Davis, and Marshallberg all have had zero participants. In western Carteret County, the participation and attendance is broken down as such: Cape Carteret has 6 participants, Emerald Isle has none, Cedar Point has nine. In the "in between" Newport has 102 participants, Pine Knoll Shores has 30, and Beaufort has 32. Most of our participants are from Morehead City which are 247. The data shows that distant towns are not coming to aging services nor to the Leon Mann Jr. Enrichment Center; therefore, the opportunity exists to go to them. Aging Services can gain a presence within these communities.

Using established grant funding sources is the "what" component of expanding services throughout Carteret County. SHIIP, Senior Health Insurance Information Program during open enrollment it compares the prescription plans, and during the open enrollment of 2020 we saved Carteret County older adults \$140K. If we expanded that would increase savings an additional \$15K. The Evidence Based Program includes our Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program. The Family Caregivers Support Program this consists of medical supplies for our citizens, and the Home Delivery Meals Route and the Senior Center operations combats loneliness and isolation and helps us expand health education sponsored workshops throughout the county (these programs require a 10% match.) The match for the county in 2021-22 was \$31,800.

The "how" component of our plan of expanding aging services throughout Carteret County. With a purposeful and successful partnership and collaborative efforts with the following institutions and organizations. The Bridge Down East, the Core Sound Museum, the Carteret County Parks and Recreation Department, Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation, and Shoreline (Pine Knoll Shores newspaper.)

Commissioner Cavanaugh stated he would like to see this program grow because we have such a wide county and trying to get folks from Cedar Island all the way down to Morehead at the Senior Center is difficult. Ms. Williams responded that last summer we had an "Operation Heat Relief" where we have a grant that purchases some fans and I was able to partner with Straits United Methodist Church to go out on a Saturday and hand out fans to those who did not have to come to Morehead City to the Senior Center in order to get those fans.

Commissioner Comer asked what funding is based on? Ms. Williams stated the funds are from ACCBG federal grant program that is passed onto the state and the state passes it on to the region. It is a general-purpose fund that is a slice of a pie. We get a larger piece of the pie because we are a Senior Center of Excellence in NC.

Commissioner then asked if putting satellite locations in the eastern and western part of the county was feasible and could we get funding to help with that? Ms. Williams replied yes. Commissioner Comer said this is a needed asset and I appreciate what you do.

Commissioner Farrington asked how many of these folks come to you via CCATS? Ms. Williams stated we currently have 23 individuals who utilize the transportation system. We have a great relationship with Randy and CCATS. For instance, we use CCATS to take folks to the state fair.

In closing, at Aging Services helping older adults remain independent is our number one priority. We strive to support, assist, and advocate for seniors and their families by offering programs and services that allow them to age in place and remain in their home. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for older adults

in Carteret County by providing services/programs and activities that will maintain or improve their level of independence, encourage personal growth and development, promote community participation, and address current and future needs.

We need to expand to become more impactful and inclusive in Carteret County.



Peer Recovery Jail Diversion Program Presented by Pastor Gene McLendon and Sheriff Asa Buck

Pastor McLendon stated right now we have 80 clients that have come from the jail to our program since November 2019. In the last two years with Covid that number really trickled down and we were unable to get in the jail. It works best when we are able to take our team into the jail and have group meetings, AA/NA, etc. with individuals in the jail as we vet them to come live in one of our homes. Right now we have currently 19. Our contract is 20 with the county. Of the 80 clients, 32 have successfully completed the project, 29 went back to jail. We have just recently signed a contract with Craven County to do the same thing there.

Chairman Wheatly asked how often do you go into the jail? Pastor McLendon stated we go every Friday afternoon. We take a team of men for men and women for women. We meet with people the Sheriff has deemed a potential candidate to come to our program. We contract with Trillium and provide them with 14

beds, the county for 20 beds, and Craven with 7 beds. We have multiple properties that we use for that. We have House Supervisors and Peer Recovery Specialists who live in those homes with those in our program. Here in Carteret County we can manage up to 60 people. We hire people who have come through our program. The program participants are electronically monitored.

Commissioner Farrington stated that when you first started the program, you had a little issue with the DA and the judges, but it seems like everyone is working well together now. When you first started you had a hard time clearing some of the folks, but when you announced at our Peer Recovery Board Meeting that you had 19 participants; I just want to thank everyone in the room here because they all had a part in this becoming successful. Pastor McLendon stated we do have good cooperation with Scott Thomas, our District Attorney, working with the ADA's to help us accomplish what we feel like we want to accomplish in a very positive manner. Many of the judges are signing off. It is a great collaborative work to help keep people out of jail. We follow up with people on a biweekly basis when they leave our program just to see how they are doing, if they need any help.

Chairman Wheatly asked if the folks are employed after they leave his program? Pastor McLendon responded yes sir. Our program is basically broken down in two sections. The first 90 days are locked down. No phone, no transportation, no visits because we want to be able to keep them very close to be able to observe them very closely. The second 90 days we are helping them find jobs, we then work on transportation and housing because those three needs have to be addressed.

Commissioner Chadwick asked Sheriff Buck if we could get more people out of the jail and into this program. Sheriff Buck responded our contract is for 20 people. Not every person that is in jail is ready to be released into this program. We are talking about offenders who are addicted to substances that need to be detoxed. Then we have to work with the District Attorney's Office, and the offenders attorneys, they have to be vetted by my staff, vetted by Gene and his folks to ensure that they are proper candidates for this program. There is a lot of trust involved.

Chairman Wheatly asked Pastor McLendon how often they have to send someone back to the jail. Pastor McLendon responded it's not common but it's not rare either. It happens more than we like for it to happen. We have a zero policy on substance usage. We just had one that we were getting ready to hire and that individual used on a weekend pass and they are back in jail now. They were only 4-5 days from completing the program. Our policy is if you can't pass a drug test, you can't stay with us. We don't have time to play.

Chairman Wheatly told Pastor Gene that he respected him and asked if he felt this program was doing what he wanted it to do. Pastor McLendon responded yes, but we still have work to do. We are always learning, but we think we have one of the better programs that are being developed, and because of that the mental health department in NC just came to visit with us a couple of weeks ago and they gave us a contract for \$276K to provide Peer Support Specialists here in our county because of the work we are doing through Hope Recovery and Peer Recovery that Commissioner Farrington's mother started many years ago.

Commissioner Cavanaugh stated that this program represents a significant savings to the taxpayers of Carteret County, and you are doing God's work.

Sheriff Buck thanked the commissioners for their support of the program, because it does make a difference in Carteret County.



Gene McLendon, Executive [P.O. Box 627, Morehead City, No Phone (252) 815-6870 / Fax (252) 82 www.Facebook.com/HopeRecovery

Contract between Carteret County and Hope Recovery Homes for jail diversion program November 2019-January 2022

- Average cost to house an inmate in Carteret County Jail is approximately \$55/night (probably a low figure)

- (probably a low figure)
 The cost to house a client at Hope Recovery Homes is \$35/night
 Hope Recovery Homes has housed 80 clients since inception of contract for a total of
 6,503 nights at a cost of \$227,605
 The cost of housing the same amount of inmates in the Carteret County Jail for 6,503
 nights would be \$357,665
 Savings to Carteret County Jail is \$130,060
 Because of the COVID shut down we were limited to 3-5 clients for over one year
 Of the 80 clients, 19 are currently in our program, (12 are in 1st 90 days, 7 are in 2nd 90
 days, with 2 graduating in March); 32 have successfully completed the program, which is
 a success rate of 53%; and 29 went back to jail.
 As we know, 1 in 4 that completed the program has returned to jail.

List of services provided by Hope Recovery Homes but not limited to include: SAIOP, OP, one on one counseling, AA/NA, dental, vision, medication, medical, food, transportation, clothing/hygiene, spiritual mentors, sponsors, continuing education, employment opportunities, and a lifetime connection to a resolute, supportive network for the lifelong journey of recovery from substance use disorder. very from substance use disorder.

- Decrease recidivism rate.

 Dollar savings to county.

 Client receives treatment versus being incarcerated.

 Restoration of families.

 Being able to go into jail and have AA/NA meetings and Bible Studies with potential clients as a part of our vetting process (halted on and off for a year due to COVID)

Note: Hope Recovery Homes has just signed a contract with Craven County to develop a jail diversion program based on the model of Carteret County Jail Diversion Program. (2/21/2022)

Hope Recovery Homes guarantees that you will be treated fairly, with respect, and that your needs will be met and provided proven resources for the restoration of meaningful, productive, and spiritual lives.



Gene McLendon, Executive Director

Phone (252) 222-3888 / Fax (252) 220-0200 www.PeerRecoveryCenter.org

www.Facebook.com/PeerRecoveryCenterInc

Report from Peer Recovery Center

February 23, 2022

-Peer Recovery Center May 2021-December 2021

- From May 2021- December 2021, the number of people who have come into Peer Recovery Center for services was 3,912 (average 489/month) In January the number of people that came into Peer Recovery Center for services 478 Daily average 13
 We have volunteers who provide services for 30 hours per week.
 Hope Recovery Homes clients hold afternoon classes 5 days a week at 3 hours a day. Peer Recovery Center building is utilized 7 days a week.

Services provided include but not limited to:

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, Adult Children of Alcoholics meetings, Nar-Anon meetings (Families of addicts and alcoholics). From the Pit to the Palace, Recovery meetings, Hope Recovery Homes recovery from the Classes/celebrations/events, Bible Education, RHA SAIOP/OP (group counseling), GED preparation, OPR (suicide prevention) Training, Motivational Interviewing, WRAP (Wellness recovery action plan) training. Peer Support Specialist Training, Court approved community service

-Monthly Focus Group meetings with community leaders

-Trillium will be having a ribbon cutting event in March 2022 at Peer Recovery Center

-Peer Recovery Center has been awarded a grant from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Addiction Management and Division of Mental Health for \$250,000. We have been informed that we will begin receiving funds by April 2022.

-We are continuing to recruit additional support services for our Peer Recovery Center.

This is a fernale that came from Carteret County Jail that will graduate in April 2022 from our program.

Gena Davis

I owe my success today not only to Hope Recovery Homes but also to the Jail Diversion Program of Carteret County. After I was arrested, I met with Lt. Al Willis who said he saw something in me and thought I would be a good candidate for Hope Recovery Homes. When I first arrived, I was apprehensive to the program and the guidelines I was told to live by. I had never grasped the concept of God and found myself in an environment in which I was initially uncomfortable. Although, I decided I would keep an open mind and found that I liked what I was hearing. Through classes, bible study, and with the help from friends and staff I began to grow closer to God and started to understand how I had allowed the disease of addiction to infiltrate my life. I found myself becoming more trusting and open with the women I live with. I started enjoying sharing my personal struggles and loved learning more about God. I was given the amazing opportunity to begin working at the Peer Recovery Center with Heather Jones and Ken Johnstin. Helping them and seeing what happens behind the scenes has given me a new appreciation and gratitude for this program. I've been given a new chance at life and a new perspective on what really matters in the world. I'll be forever grateful for the opportunities given to me. Just being a small part of such a wonderful place with amazing people. I've learned a lot and made lifelong friends.

I was at the lowest point of my life with my addiction and struggle with drugs, I ended up in jall again because I couldn't get sober. I wanted a better life but was scared and didn't know where to begin. Then Keith and Al Willis with the Carteret County Jali Diversion Program talked to me about Hope Recovery. Coming into the program completely changed my life. People believed in me when I couldn't believe in myself. That was the day I knew there was hope for a new life. It gave me the time I needed to find myself, ican to love myself, and learn the tools I needed to live a sober, successful life. I have been able to grow stronger in my faith with God and build a firm foundation. I learned to stand firm. Hope Recovery provided me with the resources I needed to understand why I was the way I was. I had the chance to learn how to start healing and repair my relationships with my kids and family. I've learned how to set heathy bounderies where they were needed. I have found the purpose for my life while I was at Hope Recovery. I have stated working on getting my GED. I have also accomplished the Peer Support Specialist class at Carteret Community College in October. I graduated the Hope Recovery Program on January 9th, 2022. Today I am still a part of the Hope Recovery women's house serving as a house manager and continuing to work on my recovery. I am proud to say that today I am 9 months clean and sober. I have so much gratitude for all the staff at Hope Recovery and Carteret County Sheriffs Department for making this dream possible for me!

Emergency Services Radio System Discussion with Stephen Rea

Mr. Rea stated that Carteret became a consolidated communications center in January 2011. The consolidation came from 4 public system answering points (PSAP) which included Morehead City Police Department, Emerald Isle Police Department, Atlantic Beach Police Department and Carteret County Sheriff's Office. Interoperability is maintained in Carteret County at the present, but it is not at the standards of the communication industry of being P25 compliant.

Our current radio system is 20 years old. It was built per piece and with the availability of funds the agencies had at the time. The county upgraded and replaced many of the old repeaters from 2007-2010. Carteret County is responsible for all of the maintenance except for Emerald Isle (they own and maintain their part of the radio system.)

Why do we need a new system? It's because our system is 20 years old. Our system is an analog system and the current industry standards is for a digital system. Maintenance cost on the current system for the past 5 years is more than \$500K. The fiscal year ending in 2019, we spent \$75K. In fiscal year 2020, we spent \$109,500. In 2021 it was \$100K, and this year we have spent \$75K so far. In fiscal year 2023 we are projected to spend \$150K. Throughout the past two years, we have received several complaints from agencies that they cannot hear our fellow communicators or the telecommunicators cannot hear them clearly at all times.

The type of system that is necessary for Carteret County to move forward is a digital trunking system. It is a computer operated system that automatically assigns channels to make each call. We have asked a consultant to come to the county to assist with pricing of a new system and what we needed. They went to every tower in Carteret County, listened to radio quality in all areas of the county, and provided us with a cost not to exceed to \$8.5M. In this not to exceed price, this will allow the county to obtained 95% ground coverage throughout Carteret County. Each agency that does not have dual band radios will receive a mobile radio for their first out vehicle. They will also get hand-held radios for the first out vehicles as well. Each officer (up to 3) will also receive a hand-held radio. 911 state funds will cover most of the cost of reconfiguring consoles and equipment necessary for the 911 Communications Center. However, we do not have an exact amount for that as of now.

Commissioner Chadwick asked if we have any funds set aside for this yet. Dee Meshaw responded no, not yet.

Chairman Wheatly said sometime there would be an incident where somebody would lose radio contact, is that a very rare occasion? Mr. Rea said it doesn't happen as often as it's been portrayed, but there are

some spots that there is no radio coverage at times. Chairman Wheatly asked is one of those spots on Indian Beach? Mr. Rea responded yes, they have complained about it. Chairman Wheatly said is that the area with the majority of complaints? Mr. Rea said yes. We have put some fiber lines out there and it seems to have helped; however, Indian Beach and Pine Knoll Shores would like to talk more about putting up a new antenna at a water tower closer to the western side.

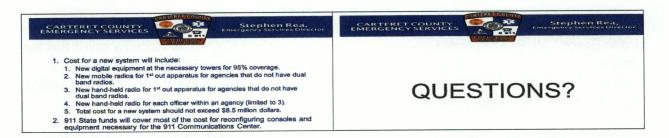
Chairman Wheatly then asked if \$8.5M going to give us a 100% coverage? Mr. Rea said no, they wont ever guarantee 100% coverage. Chairman Wheatly asked what is our percentage now? Mr. Rea said we are about 90-95%.

Commissioner Chadwick stated he hears some complaints around Harkers Island and Cape Lookout. Around the Marshallberg area there is a dead spot.

Commissioner Cavanaugh asked if the current system covers 90-95% how much will that improve with a new system? Mr. Rea responded it would be an improvement mainly in clarity when speaking. Commissioner Cavanaugh asked why not just give everyone a cellphone and party line? Mr. Rea said that doesn't work well when keeping documentation.

Commissioner Shinn asked if Mr. Rea has gotten an actual quote. Mr. Rea said no. County Manager Tommy Burns, stated you haven't given us permission to bid it out yet.





Financial Updates Provided by Dee Meshaw

Today we are going to briefly go over year end estimates for June 30, 2022, then we are going to move to a discussion on our upcoming budget. So, for our general fund which is the operating fund for the county, we will end the fiscal year in a strong financial position. We will end with significant revenue sources exceeding the budget as well as major expenditure function areas being less than the amended budget.

Ms. Meshaw described the details of the slide labeled 'General Fund FY22 Revenue Budget to Estimated Comparison.' Ad valorem taxes are slightly above the amended budget. Sales tax is \$2M above the amended budget of \$17.65M. The remaining revenue sources are similar to the amended budget projections. The appropriated fund balance is money taken out of savings for various programs. The total revenue for the budget is \$113.05M. Actual revenue that we will see is just under \$108M.

Ms. Meshaw described the details of the slide labeled 'General Fund FY22 Expenditures Budget to Estimated Comparison.' All the estimated expenditures are less than the revenue categories. The major factors for coming in under budget are things that you have heard all through the year: the turnover rate and hiring staff for vacant positions, the ability to get projects done due to schedules and materials. The total budget for expenses is \$113.05M, but the estimated expenditures is just under \$106M.

The county is in a very healthy situation with its savings, and fund balance; so, we are in a very good position with the rating agencies even in a high inflationary environment with the uncertainty of fuel and energy.

Commissioner Chadwick asked what the \$4.71M was labeled Environmental Protection in the expenditures slide. Ms. Meshaw responded that is what we spend for solid waste.

The big expenditure items for FY23 is for Public Schools, County Operations, and Capital and Major Renovations.

On our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, the total funding allotment is about \$13.5M. Congress approved freeing up some of the uses for some of this money. We can use it for non-state and non-federally funded programs excluding capital. For us, the easiest way to be incompliance is to use it for 100% locally funded salaries and benefits. What will be recommended to the Board of Commissioners is in year one, we spend \$3M of the funding for local salaries and we will take \$3M of local money that will not be spent and take that money and set it aside for future capital. We will do this in multiple years. The additional \$3.5M will go to things like park renovations, technology improvements/cyber security, and the Bridge Down East approved funds.

Commissioner Comer suggested if parks are the best thing to use this funding that we put together a study or committee to determine what and where our needs are.

Commissioner Farrington asked how long the new radio system would last if we invested that money in that project. Mr. Rea responded 10-15 years. Ms. Meshaw said using the ARPA funds for salaries and putting the local dollars aside for projects like replacing the emergency radio system.



Financial Update

Presented to Carteret County Commissioners

March 2, 2022

Financial Update

- Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 Estimated (Unaudited)
- Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 Budget

General Fund FY22

- General Fund is projected to end the fiscal year in a strong financial position.
- Some major revenue sources will exceed the budget as well as expenditures will be less than the budget.

General Fund FY22 Revenue Budget to Estimated Comparison

	Amended Budget FY22 02/28/22	Estimated Revenue 06/30/22	Variance with Budget
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$55.26 Million	\$55.47 Million	
Sales & Other Taxes	17.65 Million	19.65 Million	
Permits & Fees	4.09 Million	4.43 Million	
Intergovernmental	16.39 Million	16.17 Million	
Sales & Services	4.34 Million	4.34 Million	
Other Revenue	8.04 Million	7.88 Million	
Appropriated Fund Balance	7.28 Million	0.00 Million	
Total	\$113.05 Million	\$107.94 Million	\$(5.11) Million

General Fund FY22 Expenditures Budget to Estimated Comparison

	Amended Budget FY22 02/28/22	Estimated Expenditures 06/30/22	Variance with Budget
General Government	\$10.46 Million	\$10.12 Million	
Public Safety	17.31 Million	17.05 Million	
Transportation	1.70 Million	1.66 Million	
Environmental Protection	4.71 Million	4.44 Million	
Economic & Physical Development	8.10 Million	8.01 Million	
Human Services	21.74 Million	19.28 Million	

General Fund FY22 Expenditures Budget to Estimated Comparison

	Amended Budget FY22 02/28/22	Estimated Expenditures 06/30/22	Variance with Budget
Education: Public Schools	\$23.99 Million	\$23.99 Million	
Education: Community College	3.98 Million	3.98 Million	
Cultural & Recreation	4.41 Million	3.88 Million	
Debt Service	7.70 Million	6.66 Million	
Non Departmental (Transfer to other funds & non department expenses)	8.95 Million	6.82 Million	
Total	\$113.05 Million	\$105.89 Million	\$7.16 Million

General Fund Summary FY22

	Amended Budget	Estimated
Total Revenue and Other Sources	\$113.05 Million	\$107.94 Million
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	113.05 Million	105.89 Million
Revenues and Other Sources Over Expenditures and Other Uses		\$2.05 Million

Change in Fund Balance FY22

Increase In Total Fund Balance Estimated	\$2.05 Million
Increase in Total Fund Balance Analysis:	
Restricted Fund Balance: Net Restricted reserves increase (Add Beach Nourishment Restricted) Increase	\$1.05 Million
Assigned Fund Balance (Assume no change from FY22 Adopted, \$2.40M, to FY23 Adopted Budget appropriated fund balance)	0.00 Million
Unassigned Fund Balance: Increase	1.00 Million
Increase in Total Fund Balance 06/30/22, Estimated	\$2.05 Million
Unassigned Fund Balance Analysis:	
Unassigned Fund Balance 06/30/21, Audited	\$34.67 Million
Unassigned Fund Balance Increase FY22, Estimated	1.00 Million
Ending Unassigned Fund Balance 06/30/22, Estimated	\$35.67 Million
Unassigned Fund Balance as Percentage of GF Expenditures	36.01%

General Fund Revenue FY23 **Budget Considerations**

Revenue	Increase
General Fund	
Assessed Value	2.25%
Sales Tax Revenue	10.00%
Permits, Fees, Sales and Services	7.00%

General Fund Expenditures FY23 **Budget Considerations**

- · Public Schools: Operating, Capital, and Debt
- · County:
- Operations
- · Capital and Major renovations

Proposed Capital Projects Presented by Gene Foxworth

Mr. Foxworth stated the building environment is very tough, getting materials is very tough. So we did not endeavor to tackle any big projects this year. We are having a clean-up year. The list of proposed projects are in the attachment below. The biggest item is the renovations for the New E911 Center and EOC at an estimated \$3.724M.

Commissioner Comer said we need to be really smart about this EOC. It needs to be the right building in the right place. A one and done. Mr. Foxworth said the best thing to do is go buy a piece of land and masterplan what we want to do and build it as we have funds to do so.

Carteret County Commissioners Retre March 2, 2022 Proposed Projects for FY 22/23 Budget

The General Services Department is tasked annually with identifying the most urgent building renovation, maintenance, and other project needs for Carteret County facilities. For FY 22/23, there are not any major projects being proposed because of the unfavorable bidding environment being experienced currently. The list below is numbered for convenience not

- dmin/Annex Exterior Broezeway Decking Replacement This project was funded in se current year budget. An engineered solution is being explored presently and we nticipate starting the repair in the 22/23 fiscal year. stimated total \$175,000
- Courthouse Complex Parking Lot Repair and Stripping— We have discussed this project for several years and have a plan to reseal & restripe the entire parking lot of the Courthouse Complex. We have some grade issues in places and are currently exploring solutions before we reseal and restripe. Estimated total \$50,000

- urthouse Complex Improvements—various sheetrock and painting projects, replace a or source heat pump, pressure wash and paint areas as needed on the exterior of the graph of the lighting, and minor weatherproofing Imated total-\$225,000
- Renovations of Environmental Health & Storage Area for the Planning Department— In an effort to maximize County owned space, the Planning & Inspections staff would move locations to the Health Department. This is a rollover project from last year that was delayed due to scanning Environmental Health records to make space for the renovation. Estimated total \$150,000
- HVAC Replacements / Various Repair and Painting at the Health Department This project will replace two roof-top-units at the Health Department. These units are deteriorated and constantly being repaired, Estimated total \$48,000
- Sherriff's Office—This project would replace the carpet on the first floor. Pressure wash the exterior of the building and paint the signage. It would also include painting in the booking area and repair and paint to the white arches. Estimated total \$79,000
- West Beaufort Boat Ramp This project would include a comprehensive renovation and redesign of the docks at the West Beaufort Boat Ramp. Estimated total \$200,000
- 11. Western Office The interior (walls and ceilings) of the Western Office would be repainted. Estimated total - \$12,000
- 12. Interior Upgrades at Economic Development Building Updates to the EDC office would include interior painting, crown molding install, replace lobby windows, and replace the main entrance storefront. Estimated total \$45,000
- 13. Civic Center Main Hall Painting Interior paint at the main hall area. This area of the Civic Center has not been completely repainted in the last twenty years. Estimated total \$60,000
- Fire Protection Replace the obsolete fire detection panel, sensors, and wiring for the Courthouse.
 Estimated total \$24,500
- 15. Davis Convince Site Paving- pave the access roadway for the county owned convenience site in Davis. Estimated Total- \$70,000

Maintenance and Repair: \$1,215,500

EOC and 911 Center:

\$3,724,000

Total:

\$4,939,500

Manager's Report from Tommy Burns

I think the Board had one item that they wanted to take care of today and I believe that was the Beach Commission appointments.

Commissioner Farrington stated it was a technicality that we could not make the appointment for the 3-year term for the Emerald Isle seat at the last meeting. Also, the TDA have made their recommendation as well for the Beach Commission.

Chairman Wheatly stated we need a motion to make the recommendations for nominations to the Beach Commission. Commissioner Farrington made the motion. Seconded by Commissioner Chadwick. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Farrington made the nomination for Mayor Jason Holland to fill the Emerald Isle seat. The nomination was approved by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Farrington stated the TDA recommended Ms. Kyle Bohannon Lagos to fill the TDA seat. The nomination was approved by a unanimous vote.



County Manager Tommy R. Burns, II Interim Clerk to the Board Lori R. Turner

Board of Commissioners

Lori Turner

SUBJECT: Appointments March 2, 2022

The following appointments are noted for discussion at the March 2, 2022 meeting:

Mayor Jason Holland, 3-year term, Emerald Isle Representative to replace Ronald Watson (resigned 2/22/22); application attached
 Ms. Kyle Bohannon Lagos, 3-year term, TDA Representative, application attached

Devid 2110/32 Expres 5/10/23

noreply@civicplus.com Thursday, Fabruary 10, 2022 11:17 AM Ray Hall: Lori Turner Online Form Submittal: Boards & Commissions Appointment Application

CAUTION: This email originated from autido of the organization. Do NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Boards & Commissions Appointment Application

Address 408 Hickory St
City Emerald isle
Stute NG Work Number Floid not comploted.

1-Mail Address Incidendameraldistances

Are you currently serving or have you ever served on a

Holland 20594

Home Number Field not completed.

Cell Number 919-823-0883

Fux Number 5688

Committees of Interest Beach Commission

Committees of Interest N/A

(Second Choice)

Experience Nine year Emersid tale resident and current Mayor for The Town of Emersid Isle

Occupation Mortgage Loan Originator

Employer Movement Mortgage

public board or commission? Mayor Emerald Isla NC If so, please list below: Picase explain any anticipated conflict of interest or scheduling difficulties you may he appointed: have, if Number of Years Living in Carteret County: Nine Are you a registered voter in Carteret County? You Applicants may attach a resume, or additional information about your interests for the Board of Commissioners to consider. Also, note that this document is considered a public document.) Field not completed.

Lori Turner

Danny Navey ≺dnavey@allanticbeach-nc.com> Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:58 AM Lori Turner John Brodman; Commissioner Farrington; Ryan Davenport Beach Commission Appointments From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:

CAUTION: This omail originated from outside of the organization. Do NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The Beach Commission wishes to recommend and endorse Jason Holland and Daryl Marshall for the current vacant positions on the Commission. This was discussed in our meeting on February 14th.

Thank you,

Danny Navey, Chairman

Letter of Resignation

Ronald Watson 9102 Coast Guard Road Emerald Isle, NC 28594

February 22, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

ves to confirm my resignation as Beach Commissioner of Emerald Isle.

Ronald Watson

Rock 2/22/22 Expres 8/22/23

Lori Turner

From: Sent: To: Subject:

noreply@civicplus.com Tuesday, February 22, 2022 12:26 PM Ray Hell; Lori Turner Online Form Submittal: Boards & Commissions Appointment Application

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Boards & Commissions Appointment Application

Kyle First Name Last Name Bohannon Lagos 5205 Bogue Sound Drive Address City 28594 Field not completed. Home Number Cell Number 2522415444 Fax Number Field not completed Work Number 2523545555 E-Mail Address Committees of Interest Besch Commission Committees of Interest (Second Choice) Currently serve on the TDA. Experience

General Manager/Partner Occupation Spinnaker's Reach Realty Employer Are you currently serving or have you ever served on a public board or commission? Yes

If so, please list below:

TDA

Do not anticipate any conflicts.

Please explain any anticipated conflict of interest or scheduling difficulties you may have, if appointed:

Number of Years Living in Carteret County:

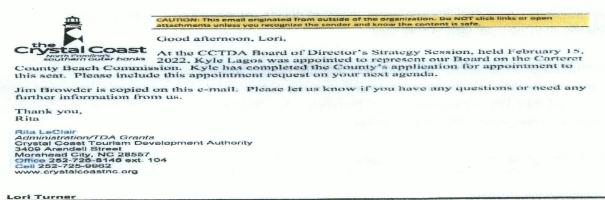
30

Are you a registered voter in Carteret County?

Yes

Applicants may attach a resume' or additional information about your interests for the Board of Commissioners to consider. Also, note that this document is considered a public document.)

Field not completed.





Jim Browder
Executive Director
Crystal Coast Tourism Development Authority
3-509 Arendell Street
3-509 Arendell Street
Coffice 252-726-81-48 ext. 106
Coll 252-773-3113
www.crystalcoastnc.org
From: Jim Browder
Sent: Wednesday, Fabruary 15, 2022 2:02 PM
To: 'ryan.davenport@carteretcounty.gov' < rwan.davenport@carteretcounty.gov' < rwan.davenport@carteretcounty.gov' < rwan.davenport@carteretcounty.gov' < rwan.davenport@carteretcounty.gov' < rwan.davenport@carteretcounty.gov'
Subject: TDA Representation on Beach Commission
Good afternoon Ryan.

As a follow up to our conversation last week...The TDA Board approved Kyle Lagos, of Spinnakers Reach in Emersid Isle, as our representative on the Beach Commission.

Here is her contact information:

Kyle Legos 5205 Bogue Sound Drive Emerald Isle, NC 28594 252.354.5555 kvie@spinnakerareach.com Thanks for your patience,

Tommy Burns stated that he wanted to bring up the quarter cents sales tax again and if there was any will to get that on the ballot for a referendum this fall. We had hoped there would be some statute changes about the language that you stipulate on the ballot, a bill was introduced during the last session to clarify that so that you could specify what the purpose was for the quarter cent. It passed the first reading in the House but died in committee. So, we are still back to where we were previously with the ballot question verbiage. I wanted to put that out there for discussion today.

Chairman Wheatly stated he would like to open the discussion by saying he would be very much in favor to adding to the ballot. I think it will help us offset some of these costs effecting the school projects. Mr. Burns stated this would generate roughly enough revenue to pay the debt service on the general obligation bond.

Commissioner Comer said with the way the sales tax revenue has jumped in the last years, just that quarter cent increase, which only about 45% of Carteret County citizens pays for, would generate enough money to cover the whole debt.

Commissioner Chadwick said we have to find a way to sell it on the ballot better than we have in the past because it has failed twice.

Commissioner Comer said this won't work unless we get the schools behind it. I am with Chairman Wheatly and I think we need to push for it.

Commissioner Comer asked Tommy to make sure the statute change is really dead in committee. Mr. Burns said we could ask the legislature to authorize it as a local act also. Commissioner Cavanaugh stated if we could get it done legislatively, let's go that route. Mr. Burns said in his previous job in Harnett County it took five times on the ballot to get it passed.

Mr. Burns said we have time, so let me get clarification on the local act and if we can't do it that way then let's bring up doing a resolution and submitting it to the Board of Elections before the July Board of Commissioners meeting.

Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Commissioner Farrington, seconded by Commissioner Chadwick. The vote was unanimous. The Board Seminar was adjourned at 2:56 PM.

Glore F. Whaty

Ed Wheatly, Chairman

Lori Turner, Clerk